

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 7-6-11)

9,730

Shipments received since opening
(9,234 CH and 496 RH)

75,969

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(75,717 CH and 252 RH)

147,852

Containers disposed in the underground
(147,357 CH and 495 RH)

DOE completes cleanup at New York, California sites

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) successfully completed cleanup of all defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste at sites on both coasts during the month of June.

CBFO successfully removed waste at the NRD site near Grand Island, New York, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, California. Contact-handled waste from both sites was sent to the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) in Idaho, where it will be characterized and then shipped to the WIPP near Carlsbad, New Mexico for permanent disposal. Berkeley and NRD are the 18th and 19th sites to be completely cleaned up of legacy TRU waste.



One of the drums that went to Idaho's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"Cleanup of these two sites represents important and continued progress in the Department of Energy's commitment to reducing the nation's nuclear waste footprint," said Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Dr. Inés Triay. "Thanks to the Recovery Act investment, we were able to achieve these goals and save taxpayer money over the long term."

Three shipments of CH-TRU waste left the NRD site on the evening of June 24, after the DOE Central Characterization Project (CCP) successfully completed activities there. The 18 cubic meters of CH waste, packaged in 87 steel drums, was loaded into nine TRUPACT-II shipping packages.

The DOE CCP was formed in 2000 in response to the diverse technical challenges presented at generator sites. The project allows for standardized methods of waste characterization, certification and shipments of TRU waste. CCP's technical expertise has resulted in an increase in the rate of shipments made to WIPP, while also making the process of removing waste from many smaller sites possible due to increased cost effectiveness. Washington TRU Solutions LLC, the WIPP management and operating contractor, also manages the CCP for the Carlsbad Field Office for DOE facilities complex-wide.

"Several months of planning and coordination by many organizations continue to result in the successful completion of DOE milestones. We appreciate the cooperation provided by state agencies and emergency response teams in preparation of the highway transport system," said CBFO National TRU Program Director J.R. Stroble. "I also want to thank employees from the Central Characterization Project and the Los Alamos National Laboratory Carlsbad Office Mobile Loading Team. These employees

work day in and day out to characterize, certify and safely load TRU waste at DOE sites around the country."

On June 3, a single shipment of CH-TRU waste left the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for the AMWTP. At AMWTP, waste goes through a final characterization and confirmation process to ensure it meets all of WIPP's disposal requirements.

At the two sites, waste was characterized and certified for transportation through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. CBFO and WIPP received \$172 million in ARRA funds to support TRU cleanup activities across the DOE complex.



Members of the NDA are accompanied in the WIPP underground by CBFO Chief Scientist Roger Nelson, Senior International Programs Manager and Policy Advisor Abe Van Luik, URS General Manager for Global Management and Operations Services Dave Pethick and WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif.

UK Nuclear Decommissioning Authority visits DOE sites



Roger Nelson, the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office Chief Scientist (right), shows a salt crystal to visiting members of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority during a June 6 visit to the WIPP underground.

The Department of Energy and its contractors co-hosted a United Kingdom delegation that included the Chief Executive Officer of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), Tony Fountain, who is the equivalent in position to the U.S. Secretary of Energy in the areas of science and environmental management.

The delegation first visited the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, N.M., receiving a detailed briefing, an underground tour and a community reception. The NDA is interested in how the Department of Energy (DOE) manages the WIPP transuranic waste program and how it establishes and sustains community support.

During his tour of the underground repository, Fountain praised WIPP's productive mixture of mining and nuclear cultures to his escort of DOE officials and contractors.

At WIPP, Fountain and his staff also participated in discussions related to project history, regulatory framework, cooperative agreements with the State of New Mexico, community support, operations and transportation. Local leaders also met with NDA members and stressed the strong relationship between WIPP and its surrounding communities.

After visiting WIPP, the delegation traveled to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with

environmental management officials. The delegation then visited URS's Global Management & Operations Services headquarters for further discussions.

Fountain told reporters in Aiken, S.C., that NDA's three objectives were to learn what is going on at U.S. sites, to understand how DOE interfaces with contractors and to observe how DOE interacts with the community. URS also manages the United Kingdom's Sellafield Sites for the NDA.

More specifically, he said he was interested in seeing the Savannah River Site's waste vitrification process in addition to progress at the MOX project, since the U. K. is in the early stages of investigating if MOX would be an appropriate fuel for its own power plants.

The two-day Aiken visit included a detailed site tour of the high-level tank waste management program, a tour of the Defense Waste Processing Facility and the construction of the MOX plant designed to blend plutonium into commercial reactor fuel, followed by a community reception that included elected officials and community leaders.

The other members of the delegation included John Mathieson, Head of International Relations; Sean Balmer, Commercial Director; Mark Lesinski, Director of Delivery; and Jon Phillips, Communications Director.

RFP Issued for WIPP Management and Operating Contract

The U.S. Department of Energy has issued the request for proposals for the upcoming management and operating (M&O) contract re-bid for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Currently, URS Washington TRU Solutions holds the M&O contractor for WIPP.

The DOE will award a five-year contract with an annual value of \$135 million a year and an option for a five-year extension. The current contract will expire in September of 2012.

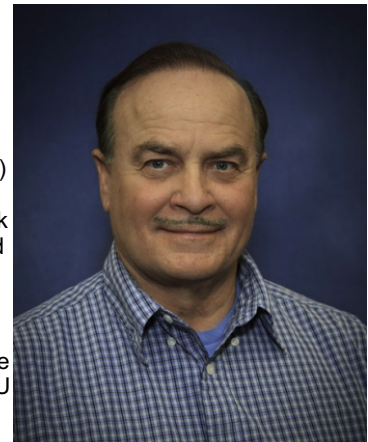
Unger takes over as CBFO Director of Quality Assurance

Randy Unger has been named Director of Quality Assurance (QA) for the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), which oversees WIPP. Unger brings with him 17 years of experience within the DOE complex from sites across the country.

"I'm pleased to announce the selection of Randy Unger as the CBFO Director of Quality Assurance," said Acting CBFO Manager Ed Ziemiński. "Randy's expertise and experience in managing programs and organizations in addition to Quality Assurance activities will benefit both the CBFO and DOE complex-wide."

Unger came to Carlsbad in the fall of 2009 as headquarters site representative for the CBFO American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Project funds received by the WIPP. He joined CBFO after spending the last five years at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as an electrical engineer and program manager for the electrical safety program. Prior to his work with NNSA, Unger spent 10 years at the Hanford site in Richland, WA.

"I'm excited to have a chance to work with our regulators," Unger said. "Our mission is to assure that all the elements supporting the National TRU Program are compliant with regulatory requirements."



Unger

Unger has undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of engineering, science and management programs from Texas A&M University in central Texas.

Unger, who has been in Carlsbad since September of 2009, said he prefers living in a smaller town and says Carlsbad is a nice community in which to live.

"I have really enjoyed my time here. I have a preference for smaller towns anyway, it's

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Webb competes in final competition



Buddy Webb competed as a team trainer for the final time in the Maysville, Ky. competition. Webb, who has worked with the WIPP Mine Rescue Teams for 25 years, retired after a decorated mine rescue competition career, which included numerous trophies and induction into the Mine Rescue Hall of Fame.

"It is great sadness that I am leaving my mine rescue friends," Webb said. "Team competitions have taught us to work together and respect each other. I will cherish those memories forever!"

Webb was a very integral part of the WIPP mine rescue teams for many years and will be missed.

not as hectic and, until recently with the construction, there aren't any traffic jams," he joked. "But there is a positive outlook within the city and this is a positive community with whom to work with.

Mine rescue teams compete in New Mexico, Kentucky



WIPP Red and Blue Teams

The Red and Blue WIPP Mine Rescue teams recently competed in the Southeast New Mexico Regional Mine Rescue competition in Ruidoso, NM. It was the Red team's first competition of the year and the second for the Blue Team. Both teams represented WIPP well, placing in four of the competitions in which they competed.

"These competitions are designed to keep our mine rescue teams sharp," Buddy Webb said, the WIPP mine rescue team trainer. "When we place in our main events like we did in the Ruidoso competition, it shows that the WIPP teams are prepared to go into any situation if need be."

The Blue team had first place finishes in the Team technician Competition and the First Aid Competition. They also finished third in the field competition. The Red team took first place in the Field Competition and had a second and third place finish in the Team Technician and the First Aid Competitions, respectively. Buddy Webb won the team trainer event.

The WIPP Red Team competed in its second competition of the year in Maysville, Ky. Even with tough competition from around the country, the WIPP Red Team still had a fourth place finish in the Field Competition.

This is part one of a TRU TeamWorks series in which each CBFO department will be profiled. The first department is the CBFO Office of Business.

CBFO Office of Business Profile

The Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office's Business Office (OOB) handles the customer service side of things, said OOB Director David Garcia. "Our job here is to help customers do their jobs," Garcia said. "And our customers are everybody we come in contact with – other DOE staff, contractors, and members of the public and elected officials."

The 12-person staff handles acquisitions, financing, security, IT, human resources and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) budget. In fact, the department's own mission statement is to "provide planning, budget, procurement, contracting, human resources and information management support necessary to achieve the CBFO mission."

"Everything we do is community service oriented," Garcia summarized. "We submit the budget, but we also monitor and report on ongoing budgets."

CBFO's OOB is located at Carlsbad's Skeen Whitlock Building.

"I have the best staff in the DOE; they are second to none," Garcia said and then joked, "My job is to drink coffee and make sure the OOB eats well."

Garcia has been with CBFO for the past two years. He grew up in a small town in Illinois and served in the Marines. He has 33 years of experience in the federal government, including 25 with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also holds a master's degree and has served as a consultant in the private sector.

On June 20, Garcia was designated as Acting CBFO Deputy Manager for 120 days while Ed Ziemianski is serving as Acting CBFO Manager. CBFO Senior Strategist Oba Vincent had served as Acting CBFO Deputy Manager prior to Garcia's assumption of the duties.

"The CBFO thanks Oba Vincent for serving as Acting Deputy Manager," Ziemianski said. "I appreciate Oba's hard work and the dedication he has shown while serving in this capacity."

Beginning with Garcia, CBFO Directors will rotate serving as Acting Deputy Manager for 4-month periods of time while Ziemianski serves as Acting CBFO Manager. While Garcia is designated as Acting CBFO Deputy Manager, CBFO Office of Business Lead Program Analyst Lucky Briggs will serve as Acting OOB Director.

Lucky Briggs- Lead Program Analyst

Lead Program Analyst Lucky Briggs has been with CBFO for two years. His work scope involves managing, coordinating and executing programs in the areas of budget, financial management, cost management, project planning and control, strategic planning and performance change control.

Briggs and his wife, Sharon, enjoy taking their golden retriever Sammy on trips in their fifth wheel. Briggs was recently recertified for scuba diving and is looking forward to exploring shipwrecks off of Florida's coast line and a trip to the Flower Gardens in the Gulf of Mexico.

Patti Crockett- Human Resources Liaison

Patti Crockett has been an employee of CBFO for the past 21 years and began as a secretary.

"We were known as the WIPP Site Office and reported to the Albuquerque Operations Office at that time," she said.

Since then, she has held various positions in the business office and is currently human resources liaison.

Crockett and her husband, Ronnie, have a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Jason. They also have three grandchildren, Clay, Logan and Kyle.

David Hoffer- Budget Analyst

David Hoffer handles budget formulation and execution and has been with CBFO for the past 17 months. He moved to Carlsbad after retiring from the Army, where he

spent 21 years. His two oldest sons, Zack and Kevin, are also serving in the Army. Hoffer and his wife, Esther, have two other sons, August and Reuben. He's taking classes in his free time and is close to obtaining his Bachelor in Management Studies (BMS) with a 4.0 grade point average. He also enjoys playing basketball.

Meg Milligan- Chief Information Officer

Meg Milligan joined CBFO in 1994 and manages the flow of information, telecommunications, networks, computers, records, documents, spectrum capacity, libraries and email.

Her keys to a good day? "Laughter and chocolate," she said. "Don't take life too seriously – it's only temporary. I work with the best team in CBFO."

Milligan is married to Randy Milligan, who teaches theatre and communications at New Mexico State University-Carlsbad and is active in with several local and state art groups.

"We have no children, but are the favorite aunt and uncle to dozens of nieces and nephews," Milligan said.

The couple belongs to Grace Episcopal Church, where Meg is on the governing council. She is also the president of the Carlsbad Municipal Library and enjoys baking, reading, television and playing "Bejeweled Blitz" on Facebook.

Karen Richardson- Budget Analyst

Karen Richardson handles budget formulation and execution and will celebrate her first year with CBFO in July 2011. She says positive interactions with others always makes the day better.

Richardson and her husband, Randy, have been married for 41 years. They have 3 daughters, 3 son-in-laws and 8 grand children.

"I love living in the country, working in my yard, enjoying my chickens and, of course, spending time with my grandchildren," she said.

Greg Sahd- Security

Greg Sahd has been an employee of CBFO since March 1998. He says the key to a good day's work is having nobody goof up.

Diane Snow- Contract Specialist

Though a relative newcomer to CBFO, Diane Snow has been with the DOE for 16 years. She's responsible for awarding and administrating CBFO's prime contracts, and she said the key to a successful day is keeping a good attitude.

Kristi Squires- OOB Secretary

Kristi Squires has provided administrative support to CBFO for the past 3 years, but before that, she worked with Washington TRU Solutions, the WIPP management and operating contractor, for 11 years. She said she enjoys what she's doing and the people with whom she works.

Squires and her husband, David, have a combined total of 3 children and 6 grandchildren. She said she enjoys reading and working in her yard.

Cecil Thomas- IT Specialist

Cecil Thomas has been a member of the CBFO team for the past six month, and he handles anything related to information technologies. He and his wife, Dorothy, have two children, Shelbi and Allie, and one grandchild, Shaylor.

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The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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